

# Heber Valley Residents Petition Support For Wasatch Stake Tabernacle Renovation

2 July 1987

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The project is not expected to require any new tax burden. The city already has \$273,576 in place toward the project and funds budgeted for capital improvements should cover anticipated loan payments. Plans submitted by George Olsen, architect, maintain the building's character and have been approved by the state historical society.

When one considers the history of the building and what it has meant to our community, the merits of its preservation are more readily apparent. Twenty-seven years after the first pioneers entered

larger, modern stake center. Along with it would go the social hall (Senior Citizens Center), built in 1906-07. Protests arose from the citizens of the community. Further protests poured into the newspaper from various organizations throughout the state such as the Sons and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, the state parks director, architects, the director of the state historical society and many more. In response to the protests, the county commissioners, the Heber City Council, and the mayors of Heber, Midway, and Charleston issued a resolution in support of preserving and restoring our historical and beloved tabernacle.

Not until the blades of the bulldozer were literally pushing at the walls did a few dedicated persons of Heber City organize. Appeals were then directed to the First Presidency of the Church who finally agreed to postpone demolition. A grace period was granted during which funds would be raised to purchase an alternate site for the construction of a new LDS center. Sixteen hundred

new furnace, insulation, replacement of electrical wiring and work on the plumbing. All these efforts must count for something.

In summary, we emphasize once again: The community needs your support! Please vote in favor of this vital project to preserve and utilize the old tabernacle!

Lloyd and Lavon Provost,  
Don and Lucille Tuttle,  
Guy and Barbara McDonald,  
Dr. Raymond and Shirley Green, Louis and Deanne Jackson, Alvin and Eleanor Nelsen, Don and Tennie Barker, Michael and Eddis Witt, Ted and Evelyn Prichard, Hope Mohr, Alyce Ashton.

## A Few Thoughts On The Meaning Of Patriotism

by Glen E. Brown,  
State Representative

Each year, as my family makes special plans to celebrate the Fourth of July, I

had noticed on his travels through the United States was the amount of personal freedom exercised by Americans. Free enterprise, freedom of



felt for a stake tabernacle. Under the leadership of President Abram Hatch and with hard work and much sacrifice, a beautiful edifice was constructed. The red sandstone was quarried by hand from the mountains east of Heber in Lake Creek and hauled in wagons to the site. The cost of the building was more than \$30,000 and took two years to complete. The hand-hewn stone is complemented by white-painted wood trim. The rugged strength of the building tells of the determined self-reliance and quiet confidence of the pioneers who built our community. The old tabernacle is a heritage left by a vigorous, resourceful people. These pioneers were our grandparents and great grandparents. It constitutes a very real and tangible tie to the past — a bridge between generations. It is the historic heart of our city.

The tabernacle was dedicated on May 5, 1889. The ceremony attracted the largest number of people ever congregated in Heber up to that time. Thirteen hundred persons were present to hear Elder Francis M. Lyman of the Council of Twelve give the dedicatory prayer. For many years the tabernacle served the people and grew old. In July 1964, it was announced that the building would be razed to make way for a

new building. Citizens signed a petition pleading for the preservation of the tabernacle. This goal was finally achieved through the following financial arrangements:

- The LDS Church received a payment of \$45,000 from Heber City and \$22,000 from private contributions.

- Heber City received the tabernacle, social hall and three acres of land.

Volunteer crews cleaned, painted, replaced windows and readied the tabernacle for use as a cultural and theatrical center. In 1971 and 1972, it was the home of the Pioneer Playhouse. Many delightful plays were presented. Additional improvements have been made over the years. During the 1970s when state and federal funds for restoration projects were available, the Wasatch Historical Society, working with the Utah Historical Society, applied for and received several grants. From 1972 to 1977 Heber City provided \$1,000 per year, the amount required for obtaining grant funds. The city has also maintained the tabernacle grounds over the years. Moreover, additional funds for improvements were forthcoming from special fund-raising events, and contributions from individuals and organizations. There was also considerable volunteer labor. Some of the improvements include new outside doors; a

make a point of stopping for a minute to think about what it means to be "patriotic" and the role freedom has played in my life over the past year. This year, with the bicentennial celebration of our Constitution coming up in September, I've thought about our constitutional freedoms and tried to imagine life without them. It doesn't take long to realize that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is far more than just a special feeling we discover when making plans for a Fourth of July celebration or while watching an evening fireworks display. Freedom is a fundamental aspect of our everyday lives, so basic that it has become almost synonymous with the word America.

Recently, I started wondering if maybe I was just a "Fourth of July Patriot," that is, somebody who waves the Stars and Stripes every year on July 4, but lets the rest of the year slip by without giving freedom a second thought. A few weeks ago, one of our state legislative employees assisted a visitor to the Capitol who was gathering information about state legislatures, hoping to visit all 50 states. Utah was his 26th stop.

The man was from Zimbabwe, a country in southern Africa. He commented to the legislative employee that the most remarkable thing that he

the press, free speech. Things were different in Zimbabwe.

The employee related the visitor's observation to me, adding that his story had given her a greater sense of appreciation for her citizenship, her freedom to work at the job of her choice, her right to vote for representatives in her government, and her opportunity to freely express her opinion on the direction of the laws governing her country. She said that she had a tendency to take these freedoms for granted and that the visitor's enthusiasm had inspired her to think about what it means to be an American.

Admittedly, though I believe I am patriotic, I share her tendency to take these freedoms for granted. And, I suspect that many Americans, like me, do the same. It seems to take a rousing Fourth of July celebration of speech-making, band playing, and fireworks to remind us of what living in the United States of America is all about.

So this year, I'm going to try to keep the Fourth of July spirit long after our special family weekend is past. I'm going to take a long look at the Constitution, something I haven't done much of since school days. But most importantly, I'm going to try to be more appreciative, *all year*, of what it means to be an American.



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I did some quick calculating. It was just about 8:00; sunset wasn't until around 9:30. An hour and a half, and we'd have to hustle! My heart dropped, with the binoculars and the bota bag, to the trail.

After several catch-your-breath stops, we finally made it to the top. And it was spectacular. Of course we had just missed the sunset, but the western sky was a blaze of orange, the mountains a blue silhouette on the horizon and the Great Salt Lake was a shimmer of quicksilver.

We sat on the blanket and drank our bota bagged beverage as the lights of the city below twinkled on with the stars above. Despite my posterior poised on a pointed rock and my teeth chattering from the cool breeze, I realized that, in its own way, it was romantic.

Then came the return trip. I didn't get as out of breath on the way down as I did on the way up, but I found muscles I didn't know I had, and I slid on places I didn't know you could slide on.

Just our luck the moon was late in rising, so we made our trek down the trail, sans the moonlight, the flashlight darting on the trail in front. Kraig had little faith in the flashlights I had brought (I grabbed them from the back of the garage) so, rather than be left in the dark, we decided to use just one flashlight, and flick the other on only when needed. He led the way, light in hand, and as he came

with a few exceptions where it is more practical to contract with neighboring fire departments.

In other business, representatives of the county's auditing firm, Hawkins, Borup & Coward, recommended some small adjustments to county financial systems and presented alternatives for managing certain county funds. Other than that, the county was given their "highest rated opinion," meaning county records "represent fairly the financial status of Wasatch County."

Representatives of Northern Engineering, the firm hired by the county to design Route A between Heber City and Kamas reported that they had just returned from re-evaluating the alignment they are proposing and said they thought they could straighten it enough to eliminate about a mile of surface, lowering the cost and increasing the county's chances of getting enough funds to build it to 50 mph standards.

Walt Jones, president of the firm, pointed out that the highway connecting Kamas and Park City is also "ready to go" but that there are only enough funds immediately available for either that or Route A. He said his goal is to complete the design for Route A in time to award the construction contract next spring.

The developers and the HVSSD have also reworked